Media cell for the Ministry

3297. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs have decided to set up a Media Cell of its own;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith likely expenditure on the cell and staff strength;

(c) whether the Indian Information Service is unable to do the job; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to minimise the expenditure in view of its own direction of 10 per cent reduction in expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No such proposal is at present under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Information Service officers posted in the Press Information Bureau are fully capable and qualified to do the job.

(d) Containing non-plan and non-developmental expenditure has been the constant endeavour of the Government and with this end in view, a number of measures have been taken relating, *inter alia*, to restriction on creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restriction on purchase of vehicles, restriction on foreign travel and on entertainment/ hospitality expenses, restriction on STD/ISD facility, restriction on number of free calls on official residential telephones, etc.

Realisation of service tax from television channel advertisements

3298. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lost Rs. 150 crores during the last financial year as 5 per cent service tax on advertisements on various television channels, including Doordarshan;